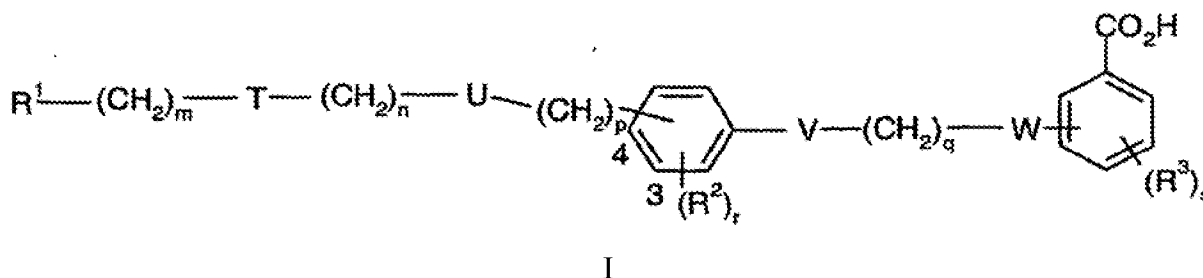


In the Claims:

The current status of all claims is listed below and supersedes all previous lists of claims.

Please cancel claims 4, 5, and 12 without prejudice to their presentation in another application, and amend claims 1, 6-11, 13, and 14 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula I



wherein

R^1 represents aryl optionally substituted by a heterocyclic group or a heterocyclic group optionally substituted by aryl wherein each aryl or heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or more of the following groups:

- a C_{1-6} alkyl group;
- a C_{1-6} acyl group;
- aryl C_{1-6} alkyl, wherein the alkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl group is optionally substituted by one or more R^b ;
- halogen,
- CN and NO_2 ,
- $-NR^cCOOR^a$;
- $-NR^cCOR^a$;
- $-NR^cR^a$;
- $-NR^cSO_2R^d$;
- $-NR^cCONR^kR^c$;
- $-NR^cCSNR^aR^k$;
- $-OR^a$;

$-\text{OSO}_2\text{R}^d$;
 $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^d$;
 $-\text{SOR}^d$;
 $-\text{SR}^c$;
 $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^a\text{R}^f$;
 $-\text{SO}_2\text{OR}^a$;
 $-\text{CONR}^c\text{R}^a$;
 $-\text{OCONR}^f\text{R}^a$;

wherein R^a represents H, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, aryl or aryl C_{1-6} alkyl group wherein the alkyl, aryl or aryl C_{1-6} alkyl group is optionally substituted one or more times by R^b , wherein R^b represents C_{1-6} alkyl, aryl, aryl C_{1-6} alkyl, cyano, $-\text{NR}^c\text{R}^d$, $=\text{O}$, halo, $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{SH}$, $-\text{OC}_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-\text{Oaryl}$, $-\text{OC}_{1-4}$ alkylaryl, $-\text{COR}^c$, $-\text{SR}^d$, $-\text{SOR}^d$, or $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^d$, wherein R^c represents H, C_{1-4} alkyl, aryl, aryl C_{1-4} alkyl and R^d represents C_{1-4} alkyl, aryl, aryl C_{1-4} alkyl;

wherein R^f represents hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} acyl, aryl, aryl C_{1-4} alkyl and R^a is as defined above; and

R^k represents hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, aryl, aryl C_{1-4} alkyl;

the group $-(\text{CH}_2)_m-\text{T}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{U}-(\text{CH}_2)_p-$ is attached at either the 3 or 4 position in the phenyl ring as indicated by the numbers in formula I and represents a group selected from one or more of the following: $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_2$, $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_3$, $\text{NC}(\text{O})\text{NR}^4(\text{CH}_2)_2$, $\text{CH}_2\text{S}(\text{O}_2)\text{NR}^5(\text{CH}_2)_2$, $\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^6)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2$, $(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{N}(\text{R}^6)\text{C}(\text{O})(\text{CH}_2)_2$, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7\text{CH}_2$, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7(\text{CH}_2)_2$, and $\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^6)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{O}$;

V represents O , S , NR^8 , ~~or a single bond~~;

q represents 1, ~~2 or 3~~;

W represents O , S , $\text{N}(\text{R}^9)\text{C}(\text{O})$, NR^{10} , ~~or a single bond~~;

R^2 represents halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C_{1-4} acyl group, aryl, an aryl C_{1-4} alkyl group, CN or NO_2 ;

r represents 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R^3 represents halo, a C_{1-4} alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or

more fluoro, a C₁₋₄alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄acyl group, aryl, an arylC₁₋₄alkyl group, or CN;

s represents 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ independently represent H, a C₁₋₁₀alkyl group, aryl or an arylC₁₋₄alkyl group or when m is 0 and T represents a group N(R⁶)C(O) or a group (R⁵)NS(O₂) then R¹ and R⁶ or R¹ and R⁵ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached represent a heteroaryl group;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

with the ~~provisos~~ proviso that when

1) when R¹ is phenyl optionally substituted by one or two groups independently selected from halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro;

m is 1;

T is N(R⁶)C(O) wherein R⁶ represents a C₂₋₈alkyl group which is optionally interrupted by oxygen;

n is 1;

U is absent or represents methylene;

p is 0;

r is 0;

V is O or S;

q is 1; and

W is a single bond attached to the position ortho to the carboxylic acid group;

then s does not represent 0; and

~~2) when R¹ is phenyl optionally substituted by one or two groups independently selected from halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro;~~

~~m is 1;~~

~~T is N(R⁶)C(O) wherein R⁶ represents an unbranched C₂₋₇alkyl group;~~

~~n is 1;~~

U is O;

~~p is 0;~~

~~r is 0 or 1;~~

~~and when r is 1 R² is attached at the 3 position and is OCH₃;~~

~~V is a single bond;~~

~~q is 2; and~~

~~W is O or S attached to the position ortho to the carboxylic acid group;~~

~~then s does not represent 0.~~

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 in which R¹ represents phenyl which is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: halo, hydroxy, a C₁₋₄alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, benzyloxy, a C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyloxy group, phenyl or a heteroaryl group, or R¹ represents heteroaryl which is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro or phenyl optionally substituted by one or more of the following: halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro.

3. (original) A compound according to any previous claim in which the group -(CH₂)_m-T-(CH₂)_n-U-(CH₂)_p- is attached at the 4 position in the phenyl ring as indicated by the numbers in formula I, that is para to the group V.

4-5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any previous~~ claim 1 in which the group -V-(CH₂)_q-W- is joined at the ortho position with respect to the carboxylic acid group.

7. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any previous~~ claim 1 in which R² is halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group or a C₁₋₄alkoxy group and r is 0 or 1.
8. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any previous~~ claim 1 in which s is 0.
9. (currently amended) A compound selected from one or more of the following:
- 3-~~{[(3-~~{[(1,1'-biphenyl-4-ylcarbonyl)amino]methyl}phenyl)amino]methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~
 - 2-~~{[4-(2-oxo-2-~~{[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}ethyl)phenoxy]methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~
 - 2-~~[(3-~~{2-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~
 - 2-~~{[3-(2-oxo-2-~~{[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}ethyl)phenoxy]methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~
 - 2-~~[(4-~~{3-~~[[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl](methyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)-~~~~~~
 - 15 methyl]benzoic acid;
 - 2-~~[(4-~~{2-~~[(4-methyl-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,3-thiazol-5-yl}carbonyl)amino]-~~~~~~
 - ethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 - 2-~~(~~{4-~~[2-~~(~~[(2,4-difluorophenyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenoxy}methyl)benzoic~~~~~~~~~~
 - acid;
 - 2-~~[(4-~~{2-~~[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furoyl)amino]ethyl}phenoxy)methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~~~
 - 2-~~[(4-~~{2-~~[(benzylsulfonyl)amino]ethyl}phenoxy)methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~~~
 - 2-~~[(4-~~{2-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-2-fluorophenoxy)methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~
 - 2-~~[(4-~~{2-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-2-methoxyphenoxy)methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~
 - 2-~~(~~{4-~~[3-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-3-oxopropyl]phenoxy)methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~~~
 - 2-~~[(4-~~{2-~~[4-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenoxy]ethyl)-phenoxy)methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~~~
 - 2-~~[(4-~~{2-~~{4-~~[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}ethyl)phenoxy}methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~~~~~
 - 2-~~[(3-~~{2-~~[4-(benzyloxy)phenoxy]ethyl}phenoxy)methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~~~
 - 2-~~{[3-(2-~~{4-~~[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}ethyl)phenoxy]methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~~~
 - 2-~~(~~{3-~~[2-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)ethyl]phenoxy}methyl)benzoic acid;~~~~~~
 - 2-~~[(4-~~{3-~~[4-(benzyloxy)phenoxy]propyl}phenoxy)methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~~~
 - 2-~~{[4-(3-~~{4-~~[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}propyl)phenoxy]methyl}benzoic acid;~~~~~~
 - 2-~~(~~{4-~~[3-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)propyl]phenoxy}methyl)benzoic acid;~~~~~~

2-{{4-(3-{{2-(2-ethoxyphenyl)ethyl}amino}-3-oxopropyl)phenoxy}methyl}benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{3-[ethyl(2-pyridin-2-ylethyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

~~2-{{2-(3-{{2-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethyl}thio}benzoic acid;~~

2-{{4-(2-{heptyl[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)ethyl] amino}-2-oxoethyl)phenoxy}methyl}benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{2-[[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl](heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

2-[(4-{2-[heptyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid; and

2-[(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;

~~2-[(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}benzyl)oxy]benzoic acid;~~

~~2-[(4-{2-[heptyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}benzyl)oxy]benzoic acid;~~

~~2-{{2-[4-(2-{isobutyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]ethoxy}-benzoic acid; and~~

2-[(4-{2-[[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl](heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}benzyl)oxy]benzoic acid

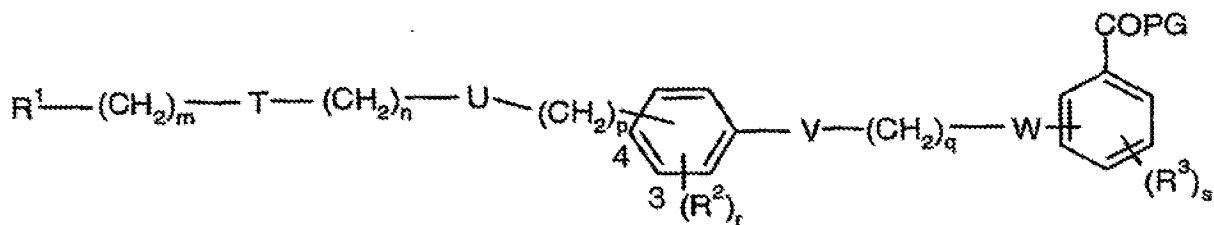
and or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts salt thereof.

10. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~adjuvants, diluents and/or carriers~~ adjuvant, diluent, and/or carrier.

11. (currently amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ insulin resistance comprising the administration of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 to a mammal in need thereof.

12. (canceled).

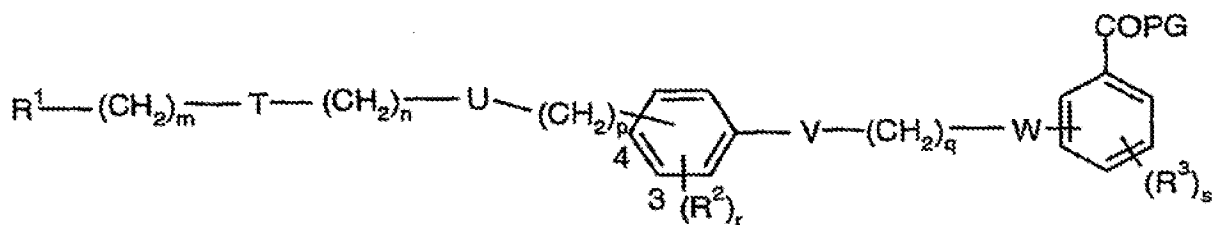
13. (currently amended) A process to prepare ~~compounds of formula I~~ a compound of formula I of claim 1 comprising reacting a compound of formula II



II

in which R¹, T, U, V, W, R², R³, m, n, p, q, r and s are as previously defined in claim 1 and PG represents a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group with a de-protecting agent.

14. (currently amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of formula II ~~as described in claim 13.~~



II

wherein:

R¹ represents aryl optionally substituted by a heterocyclic group or a heterocyclic group optionally substituted by aryl wherein each aryl or heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or more of the following groups:

a C₁₋₆alkyl group;

a C₁₋₆acyl group;

arylC₁₋₆alkyl, wherein the alkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl group is optionally substituted by one or more R^b;

halogen,

-CN and NO₂,

-NR^cCOOR^a;

-NR^cCOR^a;-NR^cR^a;-NR^cSO₂R^d;-NR^cCONR^kR^c;-NR^cCSNR^aR^k;-OR^a;-OSO₂R^d;-SO₂R^d;-SOR^d;-SR^c;-SO₂NR^aR^f;-SO₂OR^a;-CONR^cR^a;-OCONR^fR^a;

wherein R^a represents H, a C₁₋₆alkyl group, aryl or arylC₁₋₆alkyl group wherein the alkyl, aryl or arylC₁₋₆alkyl group is optionally substituted one or more times by R^b, wherein R^b represents C₁₋₆alkyl, aryl, arylC₁₋₆alkyl, cyano, -NR^cR^d, =O, halo, -OH, -SH, -OC₁₋₄alkyl, -Oaryl, -OC₁₋₄alkylaryl, -COR^c, -SR^d, -SOR^d, or -SO₂R^d, wherein R^c represents H, C₁₋₄alkyl, aryl, arylC₁₋₄alkyl and R^d represents C₁₋₄alkyl, aryl, arylC₁₋₄alkyl;

wherein R^f represents hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄acyl, aryl, arylC₁₋₄alkyl and R^a is as defined above; and

R^k represents hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, aryl, aryl C₁₋₄alkyl;

the group -(CH₂)_m-T-(CH₂)_n-U-(CH₂)_p- is attached at either the 3 or 4 position in the phenyl ring as indicated by the numbers in formula I and represents a group selected from one or more of the following: O(CH₂)₂, O(CH₂)₃, NC(O)NR⁴(CH₂)₂, CH₂S(O₂)NR⁵(CH₂)₂, CH₂N(R⁶)C(O)CH₂, (CH₂)₂N(R⁶)C(O)(CH₂)₂, C(O)NR⁷CH₂, C(O)NR⁷(CH₂)₂, and CH₂N(R⁶)C(O)CH₂O;

V represents O;

q represents 1;

W represents a single bond;

R² represents halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄acyl group, aryl, an arylC₁₋₄alkyl group, CN or NO₂;

r represents 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R³ represents halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄acyl group, aryl, an arylC₁₋₄alkyl group, or CN;

s represents 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ independently represent H, a C₁₋₁₀alkyl group, aryl or an arylC₁₋₄alkyl group or when m is 0 and T represents a group N(R⁶)C(O) or a group (R⁵)NS(O₂) then R¹ and R⁶ or R¹ and R⁵ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached represent a heteroaryl group;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.